

1,941
88A88
Reserve

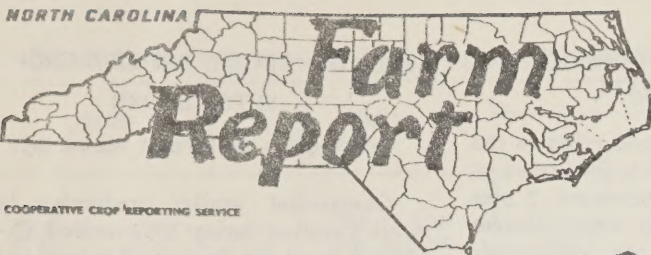
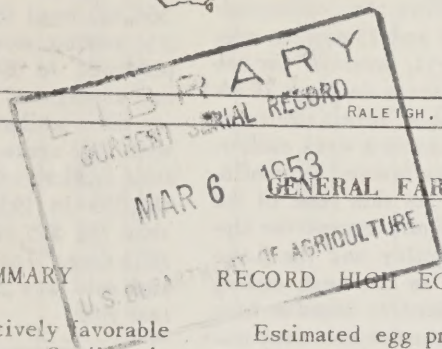


TABLE OF CONTENTS	
SUBJECT	PAGE
GENERAL SUMMARY.....	1 & 2
EGG PRODUCTION.....	1
MILK PRODUCTION.....	1 & 4
JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY.....	1 & 4
BROILER PRODUCTION.....	2
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER.....	2
FURNITURE PRICES.....	3
FOOD PRICES.....	3
BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS.....	3
CABBAGE INDICATIONS.....	4



GENERAL SUMMARY

January was a relatively favorable month for growing crops. Small grain crops made good progress during the month and pastures showed considerable improvement. However, in many sections of the State pasture conditions are below normal for this time of the year - - the result of the prolonged drouth of the past summer.

Rainfall ran slightly above normal for the month in most areas. Temperatures averaged 4 to 5 degrees above normal over most of the State.

Field activity was possible in a good many eastern counties, but soils were mostly on the "wet" side elsewhere in the State. Delay in the preparation of tobacco beds was reported from some eastern localities, especially in southeastern counties. Shortages of farm supplies of hay and grain feed are fairly general throughout the State.

(Continued on Page 2)

RECORD HIGH EGG PRODUCTION

Estimated egg production in North Carolina during January totaled 112 million, an all-time high record for the month. Production during each succeeding January since 1946 has set a new record. Eggs laid during January 1952 were 104 million (revised). There were 9,257,000 layers on hand during January of this year, or about 29 percent more than the 8,992,000 (revised) on hand during January 1952.

Meanwhile, farm flocks in the Nation laid 5,441 million eggs in January, a record high for the month - - about 1.5 percent more than in January of last year and 22 percent above the 1942-51 average.

RECORD JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Production of milk on North Carolina farms during January totaled 124 million pounds, the highest production of record for the month, but 3 percent less than the revised amount produced the preceding month. The January output is about 3 percent more than the revised production for the same month a year ago, and surpasses the revised January 1951 figure by about 6 percent. The 1941-50 average is 106 million pounds.

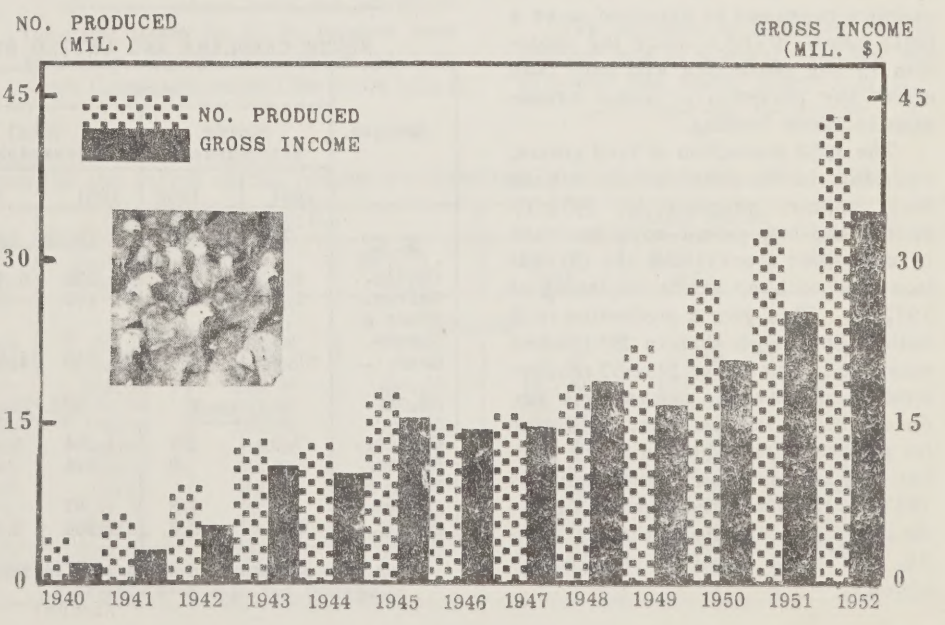
There were an estimated 377,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms in January, 14,000 more than the number on farms the same month a year ago.
(Continued on Page 4)

NORTH CAROLINA: COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME, 1940-1952

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

The usual number of winter storms passed within range of North Carolina during January, bringing a great deal of cloudy, windy weather, with frequent rains and changes from warm to cold and back again. All this took place, however, without any generally destructive stormy weather, and without any unusual extremes of any sort. One low pressure storm was leaving the coastal waters as the month began; another passed west-east through the length of the State on the 21st, and there were several others that passed close by. The highest winds recorded in North Carolina during January, however, came on the 24th, in connection

(Continued on Page 4)



LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

The decline in meat animal prices since last spring is resulting in a sharp reduction in hog production. Farmers indicated on December 1 that they intend to have 13 percent fewer sows farrow in the spring of 1953 than last spring. With the 1952 fall pig crop 11 percent smaller than a year earlier, pork production in 1953 may drop 12 to 15 percent below both 1951 and 1952.

Beef production, on the other hand, will continue upward in 1953. Even though slaughter of cattle increased a great deal in the last few months, the number of cattle and calves on farms probably rose about 5 million head during 1952. With more on farms, slaughter of cattle and calves will be considerably larger in 1953 than in 1952. Assuming average grazing and feed conditions, the year's total may be up nearly 15 percent from 1952. Despite such an increase, however, the number of cattle on farms would rise somewhat further during the year.

The increase in beef and veal production seems likely to about offset the decline in pork and total meat output in 1953 is expected to be about the same as in 1952. However, production will depend a good deal on the weather.

THE FEED SITUATION

The total supply of feed grains and other concentrates for the 1952-53 feeding season is nearly as large as in 1951-52, a little above the 1946-50 average, and about a fourth larger than just before World War II. The total quantity consumed is expected to be a little below 1951-52, since the reduction in hog production will more than offset the prospective further expansion in cattle feeding.

The 1952 production of feed grains, estimated in December at 121 million tons, appears adequate for 1952-53 needs, and may permit some increase in carry-over stocks from the 20 million tons on hand at the beginning of 1952-53. This year's production is 8 million tons larger than in 1951, when output fell short of our 1951-52 requirements, and reserve stocks were reduced by 8.5 million tons. Allowing for a prospective reduction in the number of grain-consuming animal units in 1952-53, the estimated supply is a little larger per animal unit than in 1951-52, and about equal to the 1946-50 average.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION
AT HIGH LEVEL

American cheese production in the week ending February 5, estimated at 14,150,000 pounds, increased 2 percent from the preceding week. Output was 29 percent above the corresponding week last year and 13 percent over the 5-year, 1947-51, average for the week. This represents declines in relation to both these levels from the high percentages shown a week earlier. Milk production was favored by continued mild weather for this time of the year in all the country except the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Lake States. Pastures in the week ending February 2 continued to improve from Louisiana and Arkansas eastward and grazing became more general.

GENERAL SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Eastern North Carolina Truck Crop growers are making generally good progress in preparation of land and planting of their early crops. Setting of the late spring cabbage and lettuce crops is well advanced. Reports from cabbage growers about February 1 indicate a 1953 late spring crop of 2,300 acres about 400 acres more than was harvested last year. Milk production on North Carolina farms during January was 17 percent greater than the 10-year January average. January egg production in the State was nearly 8 percent above output in January 1952 reflecting a 3 percent increase in number of layers and a 5 percent increase in the rate of lay.

1952 COMMERCIAL BROILER CROP
SETS RECORD

Production 33 Percent Above 1951

Commercial broiler production in North Carolina during 1952 totaled 43,366,000 head the largest of record and 33 percent more than the 32,606,000 produced in 1951. Growers received an average of 28.4 cents per pound for their broilers during 1952 compared with 27.9 cents in 1951. Gross income from broilers reached a record of \$34,485,000 in 1952 - 35 percent greater than the \$25,472,000 received for their 1951 crop. The average liveweight per bird sold was 2.8 pounds, the same as last year.

1952 COMMERCIAL MEAT PRODUCTION
6 PERCENT ABOVE 1951

Commercial livestock slaughter in North Carolina totaled 20.9 million pounds liveweight during December 1952, a drop of about 10 percent from the previous month but an increase of 24 percent over December 1951. Total liveweight slaughter in the State during 1952 exceeded that of 1951 by about 15 percent.

Meanwhile, national production of meat in commercial plants during December 1952 totaled 2,202 million pounds. This was an increase of 18 percent over the 1,861 million pounds produced during November and an increase of 17 percent over the 1,885 million pounds produced during December 1951. Commercial meat production for the year 1952 was 6 percent more than for 1951.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER *

Species	December				January - December			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
N. C.	<u>Thous. Head</u>		<u>Thous. Lb.</u>		<u>Thous. Head</u>		<u>Thous. Lb.</u>	
Cattle..	5.7	7.2	4,626	5,486	94.9	103.4	75,790	81,267
Calves..	2.7	3.2	409	557	47.7	47.7	8,435	8,179
Sheep & Lambs..	.1	-	7	-	1.6	1.5	145	131
Hogs....	53.0	71.0	11,730	14,820	577.0	733.0	127,699	154,696
U. S.	<u>Mil. Head</u>		<u>Mil. Lbs.</u>		<u>Mil. Head</u>		<u>Mil. Lbs.</u>	
Cattle..	1.3	1.7	1,294	1,588	16.4	17.9	15,759	17,103
Calves..	.6	.8	124	181	8.4	8.9	1,740	1,940
Sheep & Lambs..	.9	1.3	87	130	11.1	14.0	1,080	1,351
Hogs....	8.3	8.8	1,964	2,080	76.1	77.7	18,297	18,441

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection, and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1951-1952

Items	Unit	North Carolina			United States		
		Sept. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1951	Sept. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1951
- Cents -							
Sugar.....	Per 10 Lbs.	105.0	105.0	105.0	108.0	107.0	105.0
Flour.....	Per 25 Lbs.	205.0	205.0	210.0	213.0	213.0	216.0
Bread, white.....	Per lb.	16.8	-	-	16.5	-	-
Corn meal.....	Per lb.	6.9	7.0	6.1	7.92	7.88	7.18
Rolled oats, packaged...	Per lb.	16.0	-	-	14.0	-	-
Rice.....	Per lb.	-	20.5	18.2	-	18.9	17.6
Bacon.....	Per lb.	60.0	57.0	58.0	60.9	56.8	57.1
Round steak.....	Per lb.	97.0	89.0	99.0	96.5	88.8	99.2
Pork chops.....	Per lb.	-	-	-	72.4	60.0	63.7
Lard.....	Per lb.	19.8	19.2	25.0	18.7	17.3	24.2
Butter.....	Per lb.	85.0	84.0	85.0	84.7	80.8	85.1
Cheese, American.....	Per lb.	62.0	-	-	62.2	-	-
Coffee.....	Per lb.	86.0	86.0	86.0	87.9	87.7	88.2
Tea, Orange Pekoe.....	Per lb.	-	135.0	130.0	-	134.0	131.0
Oranges, 216's.....	Per Doz.	41.0	31.0	30.0	48.5	44.7	44.9
Bananas.....	Per lb.	14.8	-	-	17.1	-	-
Apples, fresh.....	Per lb.	10.2	11.2	10.0	13.1	14.0	11.4

SOME DECEMBER FOOD PRICES
HIGHER THAN PREVIOUS YEAR

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for some food items were higher on December 15, 1952 than on December 15, 1951 (See table).

The items that increased in price during this period were corn meal, rice tea, oranges and apples. The price of sugar and coffee was unchanged. Slightly lower prices were paid for flour, bacon, round steak, lard and butter.

Prices paid by U. S. farmers for most food items were slightly higher than those paid by Tar Heel farmers.

CHICK PLACEMENTS
AT HIGH LEVEL

There were 4,336,000 commercial broiler chicks placed with producers in the central and western commercial broiler areas of the State during Janu-

ary 1953. This compares with 3,870,000 placed during the same month of 1952 and 3,874,000 placed in the areas a month earlier.

FURNITURE PRICES INCREASE

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for selected furniture items increased during the year from December 15, 1951 to December 15, 1952 (See table).

Bedroom suites at \$150.00 each and felt base rugs at \$11.00 were the same on both dates. Higher prices were paid for Axminster rugs, dining-room and living-room suites, bed springs, felt cotton mattresses and kitchen cabinets. Wood and coal kitchen stoves, and wringer type washing machines were the only two furniture items with lower prices on December 15, 1952.

Average prices paid for specified furniture items by U. S. farmers were generally higher than those paid by North Carolina farmers (See table below)

MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS
BELOW AVERAGE

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held in storage on January 1, 1953 by growers and local dealers in or near areas where produced are estimated at 113,370,000 bushels. These holdings are 11 percent smaller than the 10-year (1942-51) average January 1 merchantable stocks but exceed the 93,905,000 bushels in storage January 1, 1952 by 21 percent, or 19.5 million bushels. Compared with holdings on January 1, 1952, stocks in the late States of the East are up 5.4 million bushels, .2 million bushels higher in the Central late States, up 14.0 million bushels in the late States of the West but down .1 million bushels in the intermediate potato States.

The economy is operating at the highest rate in history, with full employment and rising wage rates.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR FURNITURE WITH COMPARISONS, 1951 - 1952

Item	Unit	North Carolina			United States		
		Sept. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1951	Sept. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1952	Dec. 15 1951
- Dollars -							
Rugs, Axminster 9' x 12'.....	Each	80.00	79.00	78.00	85.60	84.70	89.40
Rugs, Felt Base 9' x 12'.....	Each	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.40	10.30	10.40
Dining-room Suites.....	Each	235.00	255.00	235.00	241.00	241.00	234.00
Living-room Suites.....	Each	150.00	155.00	150.00	185.00	184.00	185.00
Bedroom Suites.....	Each	150.00	150.00	150.00	174.00	172.00	170.00
Bedsteads, Metal, Double.....	Each	15.00	15.00	14.50	15.40	15.30	15.40
Mattresses 54", Felted Cotton...	Each	29.00	30.00	25.50	24.30	24.50	24.30
Bed springs, Double, Sagless.....	Each	19.00	19.50	18.00	19.20	19.20	18.60
Kitchen Cabinets.....	Each	57.00	58.00	56.00	59.50	58.70	58.50
Stoves 6-hole kitchen range.....	Each	99.00	98.00	100.00	119.00	117.00	117.00
Washing machine, wringer type, elec.	Each	135.00	135.00	140.00	134.00	134.00	135.00
Washing machine, automatic, elec.	Each	290.00	285.00	-	294.00	294.00	-

FARM REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300
(PMGC)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FORM BAE-A-2-53-14,000
PERMIT No. 1001

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM
FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

MR. RALPH R. SHAW, LIBRARIAN
LIBRARY,
U. S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 17, 1953

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

WEATHER SUMMARY (Cont'd)

with a storm whose center moved north-eastward up the Ohio River Valley.

January was warmer by an average of four or five degrees than the long-term average for January over the past half century. There were the usual ups and downs; the beginning of the month was about normal, followed by moderately cool weather for the first week. Then a sharp turn for the warmer brought some of the highest temperatures of the month. There were a few moderately cool days following the tenth; then a week-long warm period following the fifteenth, bringing the mercury up as high or a little higher than it went at the end of the first week. Temperatures were mild, with only slight day-to-day changes, through the rest of January, with another sharp warming trend beginning on the 31st.

Rainfall was a little above long-term January averages this month in most parts of North Carolina, the heaviest amounts being in the extreme southern mountains and along the coast from Hatteras southward. A few inland places in the Coastal Plain, mostly in the northern section, had less than normal rain, but the shortage was not great enough to result in dry soils. In general, the greatest rainfall occurred during the period 20-25, in two rain spells which overlapped in some areas. Light snow fell on several occasions in the mountains, the heaviest occurrence being on the 24-25th, when enough fell to tie up mountain highway traffic temporarily. There were a few flakes of snow or pellets of sleet elsewhere in the State on one or two occasions, but never enough to measure outside the mountains.

MILK PRODUCTION (Cont'd.)

This increase accounted for the record total production as production per cow, at 330 pounds, was 4 pounds less than the January 1952 figure.

United States production of milk in January was the highest for the month in over a quarter century of records. Total output is estimated at 8.7 billion pounds, over 2 percent above the previous high set in 1945 and 5 percent above the 1941-50 average for the month. However, production, relative to population, continues very low with the January 1953 output averaging only 1.77 pounds milk per capita per day - the fifth lowest on record for the month.

CABBAGE INTENTIONS UP

North Carolina late-spring cabbage growers have indicated they intend to plant 2,300 acres this year. If such a crop is planted, the spring cabbage acreage will be 21 percent larger than the 1,900 acres harvested in 1952 and about 3 percent larger than the 1949-51

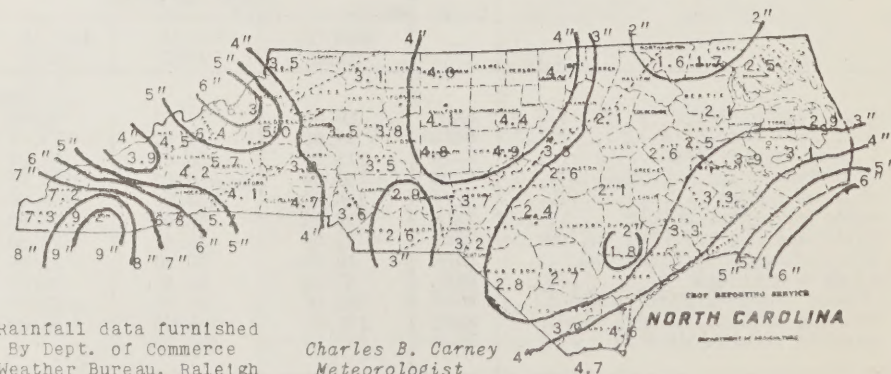
average of 2,230 acres. (See table below)

Favorable weather conditions throughout the commercial cabbage areas of the State -- rain and warm temperatures -- have resulted in an abundant supply of good quality plants. However, wet soil conditions in Pamlico and adjoining counties delayed setting of the crop until the first of February. Growers in the northeastern part of the State indicate the plants that have been set are doing well and stands are almost perfect.

PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE

State	Acreage		
	3-Year Average 1949-51	1952	Prospective 1953
N. C.....	2,230	1,900	2,300
Va.....	2,430	1,900	2,200
Tenn.....	3,650	3,000	2,400
Ky.....	450	350	310
Md.....	1,130	1,550	1,550
Mo.....	1,040	930	900
Ohio.....	620	500	500
Total Late Spring....	11,560	10,130	10,160

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING JANUARY, 1953



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist